

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in dependent claims 17, 27, and 28. In this Amendment, Applicants have rewritten dependent claims 17 and 27 in independent form, and have deleted the subject matter of independent claim 9 and dependent claim 17 that was the subject of the Examiner's indefiniteness rejections when rewriting claim 17 in independent form. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that now-independent claims 17 and 27, and claim 28 which depends from claim 27, are now allowable.

Further in the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected independent claims 9 and 18, and several of the dependent claims, as being anticipated by Jaworowski. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections of the Examiner. Applicants respectfully submit that Jaworowski does not disclose the claimed features where a direct voltage potential is applied, a current or conductance is measured, and the applied direct voltage is adjusted based on the measured current or conductance. Whereas Jaworowski appears to disclose selecting an optimum electrical potential or current for conducting the electro-chemical reaction, in operation, it is disclosed that an electrical current is applied and a reference electrode is used to measure or monitor the electrical potential of the airfoil in the bath. Column 3, lines 26-40.

However, in order to even more-particularly claim Applicants' invention, Applicants have amended independent claims 9 and 18 to now claim that the stripping is performed using a system with only two electrodes. Applicants now even more-particularly claim this feature of previously pending dependent claim 10. Applicants respectfully submit that Jaworowski's system requires three electrodes.

In Applicants' specification, Applicants specifically distinguish between a 2-electrode system and a 3-electrode system. Para. 0004. Applicants' invention utilizes a 2-electrode system. Para. 0014. Jaworowski, in contrast, utilizes a 3-electrode system. In Jaworowski, the working electrode is the airfoil itself, a counter electrode (graphite electrode) is placed in the electrochemical acid bath, and a reference electrode (an Ag/AgCl reference electrode) is also placed in the

bath. Col. 2, lines 11-14 and col. 3, lines 5-12. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Jaworowski's system with three electrodes cannot anticipate Applicants' system with only two electrodes.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 9 and 18 are allowable over Jaworowski for at least this additional reason.

Further in this Amendment, as discussed above, Applicants have amended claims 9 and 17 to obviate the Examiner's indefiniteness rejections.

Lastly in the Office Action, on the Office Action Summary page, the Examiner indicates that none of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received. However, Applicants respectfully submit that this patent application is a National Stage application of PCT International Application No. PCT/DE2004/002799 and that the priority documents should have been received in the U.S. Patent Office from the International Bureau. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate this receipt in the next communication from the Examiner or, if not received, further discuss this issue with Applicants in the next communication. However, additionally, Applicants are filing a certified copy of the German priority application concurrently with the filing of this Amendment.

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. If there are any questions regarding this Amendment or this application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

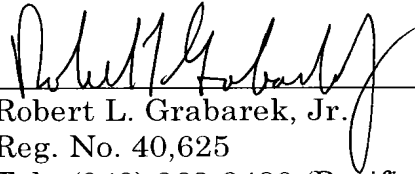
As provided for above, this paper includes a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response. Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket No. 011235.57906US).

Respectfully submitted,

CROWELL & MORING LLP

Dated: March 26, 2012

By



Robert L. Grabarek, Jr.

Reg. No. 40,625

Tel.: (949) 263-8400 (Pacific Coast)

Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, D.C. 20044-4300